

A Christian Rule of life under THE GUIDANCE OF GOOD ST ANN

O*N* obedience and conformity to the will of God. —The will of God is the first cause of everything that happens in the world. We are under the necessity of submitting to His decrees, because whatever efforts we should make to resist them would be vain and fruitless. Jesus Christ commands us to ask « that the will of His heavenly Father should be done on earth as it is in heaven. » (Matt. 6-10.) We read that His life was entirely devoted « to do the will of Him that sent Me, that I may perfect His work » (Jo. 4-34.) Indeed, this is perfect obedience not merely doing what is commanded, but being ever ready and willing to do it with a great heart for God's sake. Obedience is the most difficult and at the same time the most excellent of all the moral virtues. It is the sacrifice of his own will, and man can offer to Almighty God nothing greater than the submission of his will to that of another for God's glory. In the fourth commandment God enjoins upon us His will towards our parents and superiors, in the precepts of the Church and by many other ways He details our duties of life. But that we may learn to submit, and to bore to that adorable will, and lovingly to embrace the decrees of eternal Providence, we should maturely weigh *the excellence of our conformity to the will of God.*

Our whole perfection consists in loving our most amiable God. « Charity is the bond of perfection. » (Col. 3-14.) Now all the perfection of the love of God consists in uniting our will with His most holy Will. The principal effect of love, as St Denis says, is to unite the wills of those who love, so as to make them but one and the same will. Hence, the more one is united with the divine will, the greater will be his love. Mortifications, meditations, communions, and works of charity towards our neighbor, are indeed pleasing to God ; but when ? when they are performed according to His will ; but when